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STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) FOR HIS WEEKLY
RADIO BROADCAST OF JANUARY 10-11, 1959 (RECORDED JANUARY 8, 1959)

MY FRIENDS AND FELLOW-CITIZENS:

The business before the Senate in its opening week has been limited to discussion of rules changes. In reality, this question is simply a matter of principle, but it is such an important principle at stake that most of the 98 senators desire a chance to express an opinion.

Only one of the Senate rules is open to attack by the so-called liberal senators, and that is Rule 22, which protects the minority's right to discuss fully all proposed laws/before the Senate votes to pass or defeat these proposed laws by a majority vote. Rule 22, as it presently stands, permits unlimited discussion of issues before the Senate unless two-thirds of the Senate membership vote to shut off debate.

The so-called liberal senators would change Rule 22 /so that a majority of the Senate membership/could vote to shut off discussion of issues before the Senate.

The so-called moderate senators would change Rule 22 /so that two-thirds of the Senators present and voting could shut off discussion/rather than two-thirds of the membership of the Senate.

The great majority of Southern senators, and a few ~~other~~ ^{Senators} ~~conservatives~~ from other sections of the country, feel that the only reason a change in rules is sought/is to make it easier for a bare majority of the Senate/to impose its will on the minority.

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~~and~~, In particular, the majority feared by the South at this time/is that majority/so intent on forcing its way of life on the South/at the expense of the South's traditions.

On the ~~face~~ of it, rule by the majority sounds good. However, students of history know that the 13 original colonies, which won their independence from Great Britain in 1781, would never have united/unless certain guarantees against majority rule tyranny/had ~~not~~ been given them.

Advocates of changes in Rule 22/say that the existing Rule 22 permits a handful of Senators/to impose their will on the majority through use of the Filibuster. What/they don't explain/is that the Filibuster is never used unless the handful of Senators so engaged in conducting one/are thoroughly convinced that the issue involved is ^{almost} a life-and-death matter for their section. In a sense, Rule 22 permits a section of the nation to veto legislation, but, as is the case when the President of the United States vetoes proposed laws, a two-thirds majority may over-rule the veto. In the case of the veto by a section of the nation, it is set aside when two-thirds of the Senators vote to shut off lengthy debate, or the Filibuster, as it is popularly ^{known} ~~called~~.

I am convinced/upon studying the actions and writings of the Founding Fathers/that they would be on the side of the South if they were alive today. They would have thought it presumptuous of a majority of the states/to attempt to impose their every wish on the South today, the West tomorrow, the North day after

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tomorrow. Surely, each section of this great nation has a right to some self-rule -- even in this day of centralized government.

In the case of the South, the vast majority of its 40 million voters within 11 states/have clearly indicated how they feel on the subject of forced integration/and other so-called civil rights. I, for one, intend to see that these voters' interests are protected/and that the whims of non-Southerners are not turned into Federal laws/which will result in many times more injustices in the South/than those frequently alleged to be existing there today.

This is Strom Thurmond in Washington.

END